

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11652 261621Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HEW-04
SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/048 W

-----059209 262317Z /65

R 261618Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8437

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, ECON, EG
SUBJ: PEOPLES ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION ON IMPORTED DRUG
- PRICES

REF: CAIRO 10188

1. ALL ARABIC DAILIES APRIL 26 CARRY ACCOUNTS OF
CONTENTIOUS PA SESSION ON APRIL 25 OVER HIGH COST OF
IMPORTED DRUGS. OPPOSITION AGAIN CRITICIZED GOE FOR
FAILING TO MAINTAIN SPIRIT OF "OPEN DOOR" BY PERMITTING
UNCONTROLLED PRICE POLICY. MINHEALTH BADRAN, WHO
TESTIFIED AT SESSION, REPORTEDLY OUTLINED NEW GOE POLICY
TO GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY OF NECESSARY IMPORTED DRUGS
AT COST. BADRAN STRESSED THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY IN PUBLIC
INTEREST AND WOULD ONLY HINDER THOSE SEEKING "ILLEGITI-
MATE" PROFITS ON IMPORTED GOODS. AFTER HEATED DISCUSSION,
PA MEMBERS PASSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BADRAN'S (AND
GOE'S) POLICY ON PRICING OF IMPORTED DRUG ITEMS.

2. COMMENT: SECOND LEGISLATIVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR
PM SALEM'S POLICIES THIS WEEK (FIRST BEING PASSING OF
MINISTERIAL DECREE AGAINST PROFITEERING ON IMPORTED
ITEMS, REPORTED SEPTEL) CANNOT HELP BUT BE "SHOT IN ARM"
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FOR CABINET WHICH HAS BEEN HEAVILY ASSAILED IN LEGISLATIVE'
SESSIONS IN RECENT WEEKS. AT VERY LEAST, WE SEE THIS AS
PR VICTORY FOR GOE, REFLECTING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S
CONCERN OVER INFLATIONARY PRESSURES AND HIGHLIGHTING EF-
FORTS TO MITIGATE BURDENS OF LOWER-INCOME POPULACE.
EILTSS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: DRUGS, IMPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, PRICES
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Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
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Litigation Codes:
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